

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. No claims are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner stated that the phrase “registration information” as recited in claims 1, 12, and 16 is not defined in the Specification.

In response to the Examiner’s comments, the Applicants submit the following explanation of “registration information.” In the field of the invention, registration refers to a connection initialization process between OLT and ONUs so as to correct timing and PHY characteristics since the distances between OLT and ONUs differ from each other in a point-to-multipoint network having a tree-structured topology. All ONUs that desire a connection to the network need to be registered in OLT. In this regard, information on timing intervals between ONUs and OLT and PHY characteristics refers to registration information. The registration information is a critical timing parameter used to determine a band required by each ONU and a transmission starting time at an upward channel scheduling block of an OLT, and transfer information on an allocated band to each ONU. The registration information is mainly used in network standards (IEEE 802.3ah, DOCSIS, etc.) related to a general tree structure.

With respect to claims 1, 12, and 16, these claims recite elements related to determining priorities of the transmission permission messages based on the types of the transmission permission messages and registration information of an optical network unit (ONU) that receives the transmission permission messages. As disclosed, for example, on page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 15 of the Specification, the priority of the transmission permission messages are based on the types of the transmission permission messages and registration information of an optical network unit as recited in claims 1, 12, and 16. Therefore, in light of the above explanation of the registration information and what is disclosed in the Specification, support for the phrase “registration information” in the manner recited in claims 1, 12, and 16 is provided in the

Specification. Consequently, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 12, and 16 are compliant under § 112, second paragraph.

Therefore, in light of the above discussion, the Applicants believe that claims 1, 12, and 16 are compliant under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Moreover, dependent claims 2-11 and 13-15 are compliant under § 112, second paragraph, because these claims were rejected solely because each of these claims depends on claim 1 or 12. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-16 are respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Because the Examiner has solely rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and because the rejection of claims 1-16 are believed to have been overcome in the previous section, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 1-16 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

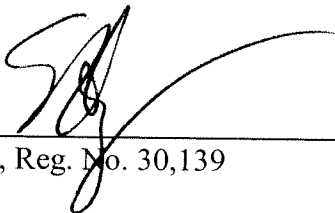
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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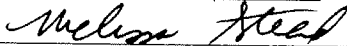
Dated: 4/7, 2008

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Melissa Stead 4-7, 2008